



April 20, 2018

Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee
Dr. Phil Roe (TN-1)
United States House of Representatives
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Roe,

On behalf of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association (BWN), we plead with the United States Congress to allow the proposed pay for to be used in supporting the passage of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017, which is the sole purpose of our existence as an Association. This has been our top priority, and we have worked hard to ensure that our Navy Veterans and Shipmates receive the benefits that they rightly deserve for their sacrifices to our nation.


Veteran and Military Service Organizations across this country should be running to the opportunity to stand for us, considering we have stood for them for more than 50 years. While we were proud to stand with them when the original Agent Orange Act was passed in 1991, in 2002 when our benefits were stripped from us, we had to go on a 16-year campaign to get many of them to be on our side again.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has failed our nation's Veterans on this issue, and it is now up to Congress to provide the requisite medical coverage by passing this legislation. If there is every any doubt why a group of service members are all coming down with, and dying from the same illnesses, then the Department of Veterans Affairs should have a duty to assist them regardless of the cost. Many of our Shipmates have died waiting for the day their benefits would be restored, and so have their widows. As we approach the final passage of this legislation on Memorial Day, we send our thoughts and prayers to our fallen Shipmates and their loved ones!

We ask that you strongly encourage your colleagues to vote for this legislation once it is brought to the floor for a vote. We applaud you and your staff who are actively fighting for a group of Veterans that has long been abandoned by the VA and deprived of much needed medical care, we can't thank these saintly people enough.

Thank you for taking an active role in such an important issue to the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans community by working to improve the lives of our remaining 90,000 Sailors who served our great nation. Please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Michael Little, with any questions or concerns at 858-926-9903 or at michael@bluewaternavy.org.

Very Respectfully,


Mike Yates
National Commander


Michael J. Little
National Executive Director